THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Eleventh Plan has fixed target of 4% growth in agriculture and allied sector. Government has launched major schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for contributing to the achievement of this target. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched during the year 2007-08 to encourage the States to invest more in the Agriculture and allied sectors to contribute to the objective of 4% annual growth in this sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. It has an envisaged outlay of Rs.25,000 crore for the Plan period. Government of India has released funds under RKVY to the State Government of West Bengal during 2007-08 and 2008-09 as under:-

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crores)
2007-08	54.93
2008-09	147.38

Projects taken up by the State Government of West Bengal to be funded from RKVY funds which will contribute towards higher production of food grains and oilseeds:

(Rs. in lakh)

Component	2007-08	2008-09
Crops	200.00	60.30
Horticulture	675.795	1155.03
Seed farm	903.774	1102.03
Soil testing lab	205.10	452.03
Seed Testing Lab.	—	285.00
IPM	—	70.80
Agri mechanization	496.10	583.03
Extension	120.40	376.68
NRM	564.25	810.72
Micro/Minor Irrigation	—	734.29
TOTAL	3165.419	5630.76

(b) and (c) Government assesses physical and financial performance of RKVY from time to time. However as RKVY was launched only in August, 2007, no external evaluation of the Scheme has been taken up so far.

Loss of crop yield due to pest attacks

1696. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country loses approximately 18 per cent of its crop yield valued Rs. 90,000 crores due to pest attacks each year according to rating agency CARE;

(b) if so, whether Government agrees with the findings of CARE; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the crop yield due to pest attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As per the report of Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. (CARE) on Indian Pesticides Industry, the country loses approximately 18% of the crop yield valued at Rs.90,000 crore due to pest attack each year. The report has cited 37th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals (2002) on 'Production and Availability of Pesticides'.

(b) It is estimated that crop losses due to insect pest, diseases and weeds range between 10 to 30 per cent annually, depending on severity of pest attack.

(c) To prevent/reduce crop losses due to pests the Government has been implementing a scheme, namely, "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection strategy through Farmers' Field Schools organized by 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory. Suitable interventions for plant protection are also made through other schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission etc.

Recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee Report

1697. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority had approved the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 based on the recommendation of above report;

(d) if so, whether steps will be taken to consult the competent authority of Kerala before implementing the recommendations of the report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Government of India constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A Vaidyanathan to suggest an implementable action plan for reviving rural cooperative credit institutions in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, Government of India